Halsted Old Church Steeple.—From the force of a rough squall of wind, lately, the vane of the steeple, which was fixed in a wooden socket, rotten from age and neglect, became alarmingly displaced while the church was occupied, and the congregation being hastily and imprudently warned, rushed towards the doors like a flock of sheep and jammed up the way, so that had the whole mass been about to fall through the rotten roof, they adopted the very course likely to lead to their own destruction. As it was, they escaped with much less harm than in too many similar instances. The church authorities, in place of repairing the spire or otherwise replacing it, demolished the vane and razed half the steeple, leaving nothing but the stump, while they sold the lead and other materials to pay the expenses. Their design, however, may have been thus to appeal to the sympathies and purses, as well as the pride, of their fellow townsmen, in default of funds of their own. A document inclosed in a tin case, and dated in 1792-3 and 1803, was found in course of the demolition, from which it appears that a somewhat less prodigal measure than that of selling the materials to pay for the piecemeal demolition of the fabric had been then adopted, in the renewal and repair of certain portions of the same appendages, when "a bean-feast was given to the workmen on the top scaffold, the ball being under the center of the table, whereupon eight men dined in the presence of a great number of spectators below." This record of bye-gone days and deeds was "wrote by Jos. Hayward, jun., whitesmith, of Halstead," whose name also appears in the list of workmen, employed by "Jos. Hayward," senior, we presume, and "Edward Argent."

Stock of Iron.—It is said that the immense increase in the make of iron both in Wales and Scotland has called forth an expression of some apprehension on the part of many conversant with the trade. "The stock of pig iron in the latter country at the beginning of the present year was supposed to be about 110,000 tons, and the probable make is calculated at 650,000 more, while the whole quantity disposed of during the year 1848 was only 550,000 tons, and that much exceeded the consumption of 1847; so that a large increase of stock is feared during the present year."——Pig iron in Staffordshire is in considerable request, and the best qualities command rather higher figures.

Newcastle Society of Antiquaries.—On the 5th inst., the members held their annual meeting in the Castle Keep. The senior secretary read the report, which was favourable on the whole, and recommended an appeal to the public for pecuniary assistance towards fitting up the castle. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Dobson, the architect, for his services in partially restoring the castle.

Drainage of Hull.—According to the local papers, the Superintending-Inspector (Mr. Smith), who has been holding an inquiry at Hull, said that although in most of the towns he had seen the drainage was bad, in no case had he met with it so bad as in Hull.

A Rare Bird known to Bricklayers.—An amateur naturalist has offered a reward to the man who will furnish him a live specimen of the "brick *bat*." This must surely be the same individual who was inquiring the other day about the new fish recently discovered, and which turned out to be the gutta percha *sole*.

Blind Builders.—Sir: Pray don't let the provincial blindnesses escape notice. The following tenders were opened on the 8th inst., for erecting some new agricultural buildings near Wainfleet, Lincolnshire. Mr. W. A. Nicholson, architect.

Corby, Lincoln	£2,650
Johnson, Hull	2,440
Dunckley, Hagg	2,350
Tinker, Lincoln	2,250
Foreman and Frow, Hull	2,220
Hutchinson and Son, Hull	2,145
C. Ward, Lincoln	2,105
B. Andrew, Stickford	2,051
Wallace and Chapman, Market Rasen	2,030
Johnson, Laceby	1,978
Kirk and Son, Lincoln	1,950
Carter, Horncastle	1,885
J. Andrew, Wainfleet; tender accepted. Precise amount not known; something less; certainly not more than	1,800

Origin of the Term "Cold Harbour."—The constant occurrence of this title throughout the country will be remembered by many of our readers. A few weeks ago a discussion as to its origin took place at the Society of Antiquaries, and this elicited a letter to the *Literary Gazette* from Mr. H. Fox Talbot. Mr. Talbot says, "As I think I have given the true origin of the curious name 'Cold Harbour' in my 'English Etymologies,' I beg to submit it to your judgment, and that of the learned society in question. The following is my account of the matter:—*Cold Harbour*. It has been suggested in the proceedings of the Philological Society, on the authority of a passage in Pepys, that this name signified a place where *coals* were deposited. It may be conceded that such was the meaning in the instance referred to, and perhaps in some others; but was it the custom to have *depôts* of coal (that is, *charcoal*) all over the kingdom in ancient times? *Cold Harbour* means '*shelter from the cold*,' a good name enough for a small inn or public house, in a bleak and solitary situation. Or, more literally, it meant '*the Cold Inn*.' Not an inviting name, certainly; but in old times people were not so particular, when journeys were always sure to be full of hardships. Nor are inns always to be judged of by their titles, since one of the best inns in Savoy is named *Maltaverne*. But if any one doubts, notwithstanding, our interpretation of '*the Cold Inn*,' we can produce good proof that such is the meaning. For, the name of Cold Harbour is found in Germany as well as in England. The name in German is *Kalten Herberg*; the meaning of which is evidently *Cold Harbour*. Such an inn is encountered by the traveller on the road from Basle to Freiburg, &c. &c. *Herberg* (French *Auberge*) is the English *Harbour*; whence we say '*to harbour* a person' (receive him, give him lodging, entertainment, &c.), to *harbour* a criminal (shelter him, hide, &c.), to *harbour* a thought (entertain it)."

Scenery.—In Buckstone's clever drama, "The Green Bushes," now playing again at the Adelphi, there is some very clever landscape scenery. We would particularly notice "A log cabin on the banks of the Mississippi" and "The Mississippi by sunset." They tell of this piece and the singularly long time during which it has been running, how that a sailor having seen it one night left for America, and, having accomplished his journey and returned, went again to the Adelphi and found the Green Bushes still on the bills; moreover, that afterwards going to India, he again found, on his return, the same company playing it at the Haymarket.——At the *Lyceum*, the continued success of Mr. Planché's capital piece of fun and splendour, "The King of the Peacocks," prevents us from having any fresh matter to chronicle.

Sir Hans Sloane's Monument.—Your correspondent "Antiquary," recommends the lettering on Sir Hans Sloane's monument to be "recut deep into the stone," as it is nearly obliterated. If this be done I would beg to suggest, after they are so cut, that instead of merely blacking the letters inside, they should be filled up with a cement, flush with the surface; and this, if adopted, would insure more durability to all stone lettering. L.

The Duke's New Edinburgh Statue, and its Site.—This further addition to the hundred-and-one Wellington memorials is, we learn, to be placed on its site in front of the Register House, on 18th June next. The Lord Provost and magistrates are being petitioned in the meantime by numerous parties on the propriety of throwing back the screen in front of the building, so as to obtain a wider and more spacious communication between Leith-street and Princes-street.

Competition for Church at Heptonstall.—A correspondent says, Messrs. Mallinson and Healy, of Bradford, obtained the first premium; Mr. Crowther, of Manchester, the second; and Mr. Shellard, of Manchester, the third.

"A Second Daniel."—A correspondent mentions that one of the old oaks in Donnington-park, the seat of the Marquis of Hastings, measures in girth (14 feet from the ground, where the branches expand), 36 feet! It is known in the neighbourhood as "Daniel Lambert."

Exemption of Literary Institutions from Poor-rate.—In the case of "The Birmingham New Library," touching the power of enforcing a poor-rate assessed upon it, Lord Denman said, "In order to bring the society within the exemption provided by the statute, it was necessary that it should be established for the promotion of literature and science, or the fine arts, exclusively; it must be supported wholly or in part by voluntary contributions, and must be prohibited by its laws from making any distribution of its property among its members. Upon the first point there could be no question that the Birmingham New Library was a literary society within the meaning of the Act. There was some difficulty in ascertaining what was meant by a society supported by voluntary contributions, but the court was of opinion that the subscriptions might be considered as voluntary if they were commenced at the parties' own choice, and could be continued or discontinued without subjecting the subscribers to any action or loss other than that of the privilege of membership. According to this construction of the words 'voluntary subscriptions,' the society in question was entitled to the exemption claimed. As to the third point, the society at an annual general meeting, held in the year 1845, passed a resolution against the division of its property expressly in the words of the Act. But it was contended that by another rule, in contravention of this, a profit might be made by a member in transferring his share, and that this deprived the society of the statutable exemption. The court, however, was of opinion that it would not, especially as there was no limit to the number of the members of the society. Then it was said, that the society at a general meeting might dissolve itself, and make a division of the common stock; but the 6th rule, which defined the power of general meetings, seemed to exclude their power to dissolve the society. A better answer to the objection was, that the statute must have a reasonable construction, and be taken as applying to a continuing body, and not as intending to deprive a society of the exemption which it conferred merely because the property of the society, in case of its dissolution, might, by the rules, become divisible among the members. Upon all these grounds, the court was of opinion that the society was entitled to the exemption claimed." This expression of the opinion of the court is important.

Iron Girders.—A correspondent, with reference to cast-iron girders, suggests for consideration the advisability of inserting a piece of *flat wrought iron* within the substance of the bottom flanches of girders, which may easily be done in the casting; he says,—it adds very much to the strength of the short beams, as I have proved by experiment. It appears to me to be simply carrying out more fully the principle laid down by Professor Hodgkinson in his "Treatise on Cast-Iron."

Effect of Securing Iron with Lead.—In the course of a paper by Mr. Highton, on Improvements in Electric Telegraphs, read at the Society of Arts on the 7th inst., the writer alluded to the rapid oxidation of the iron railings in the squares of London, and showed, as noted by others also, that the effect was due to a galvanization arising from the use of lead for connecting the iron with the stone walls.

The Murder near Brighton.—Mr. George Stonhouse Griffith, who was murdered on the 6th instant, near Brighton, was the late estimable assistant secretary to the committee for promoting the establishment of baths and washhouses for the labouring classes. The share which he had in examining the competition plans for the model establishment, and his polite attention to us when looking over them, call for this notice of him in our obituary.

The Old Water-Colour Society.—Mr. Branwhite and Mr. Jenkins were elected members of the Old Water-Colour Society on Monday last.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

Held during the ensuing week.

Monday, Feb. 19.—Institute of Architects, 8 P.M.
Tuesday, 20.—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.
Wednesday, 21.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.
Thursday, 22.—Royal Society, 8½ P.M.; Society of Antiquaries, 8 P.M.
Friday, 23.—Archæological Association, 8½ P.M.

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